

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 211642

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV; OECD

SUBJECT: 1978 OECD SOLID WASTE PROJECT PROPOSALS

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REQUEST MISSION TRANSMIT FOLLOWING NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS
TO POTIER OR LIEBEN OF SECRETARIAT FROM NICK HUMBER, US
PARTICIPANT IN OECD SOLID WASTEMANAGEMENT GROUP. PROPOSALS
WERE REQUESTED IN ENV/WMP/M/76.1 AND DISCUSSED BRIEFLY
DURING POTIER'S LAST US VISIT.

1. SOLID WASTE PRODUCT CHARGE: OECD SHOULD EVALUATE
CHARGES LEVIED ON ITEMS ENTERING MUNICIPAL WASTE THAT
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ENCOURAGE WASTE REDUCTION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY. THESE

STUDIES SHOULD CONSIDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF SUCH PROPOSALS, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS (BY PRODUCT CATEGORY), AND THEIR IMPACTS ON INCOME GROUPS. IN PARALLEL WITH THIS ANALYSIS WORK, OECD SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE PROS AND CONS OF VARIOUS DESIGN ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING: PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE CHARGE LEVELS (FOR EACH PRODUCT CATEGORY) AND APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS OVER TIME; THE POINT IN THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM AT WHICH THE CHARGE SHOULD BE LEVIED; THE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE CHARGE THAT ARE NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE RESOURCE RECOVERY; AND THE ALTERNATIVE USES

OF FUNDS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PLACED ON SUCH USES TO ENCOURAGE BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

2. DEPOSIT/BOUNTY SCHEMES: THE VALUE OF BOUNTY/DEPOSIT SCHEMES TO IMPROVE DURABLE AND INDUSTRIAL (INCLUDING HAZARDOUS) WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SHOULD BE EVALUATED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, LITTLE RESEARCH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE VALUE OF THE DEPOSIT/BOUNTY INSTRUMENT IN REDUCING THE PROBLEMS OF LITTERING OR OTHER UNACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL PRACTICES, OR ON HOW HIGH SUCH CHARGES WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE TO BE TO ENSURE A HIGH RATE OF RETURN ON SELECTED PRODUCT CATEGORIES. (IN PRINCIPLE, A DEPOSIT OF THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL WOULD PROVIDE THE DISCARDER WITH AN ADEQUATE ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO RETURN THE ITEM TO AN ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL FACILITY.) OTHER ISSUES ARE THE SOCIAL BURDEN OF DEPOSITS AND WHAT MECHANISMS EXIST TO REDUCE SUCH PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, A SURETY OR INSURANCE AGENCY INVOLVED WITH THE DEPOSIT SCHEME COULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ACTUALLY TIED UP IN DEPOSITS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE DEPOSIT/BOUNTY APPROACH.

RESEARCH IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE RELATIVELY BROAD. IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR WHICH DEPOSIT/BOUNTY SCHEMES MIGHT BE FEASIBLE--E.G., OIL, CARS, DURABLE GOODS, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (BATTERIES, PCB CONTAINING CAPACITORS)--AND THEN DESIGN AND EVALUATE VARIOUS DEPOSIT/BOUNTY STRATEGIES FOR THESE GROUPS.

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3. WASTE OIL: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WASTE OIL ACTIVITIES IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES COULD FOLLOW UP THE 1975 OECD WASTE OIL REPORT. INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE AND IS NOT AS YET AVAILABLE ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS MIGHT BE:

(A) THE VOLUME OF LUBRICATING OIL SOLD (USED) IN OECD

COUNTRIES IN 1976, BY COUNTRY.

(B) THE VOLUME OF LUBRICATING OIL RECYCLED AND
DISPOSED OF IN OECD COUNTRIES IN 1976.

(C) THE USE AND VOLUME OF EACH USE FOR THIS RECYCLED
OIL IN OECD COUNTRIES.

(D) LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF ALL INDUSTRY AND GOVERN-
MENT SPECIFICATIONS FOR LUBRICATING OIL IN OECD COUNTRIES.

(E) THE DISPOSAL PRACTICES FOR NEW, USED, AND RECYCLED
OIL IN OECD COUNTRIES.

(F) NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS RELATING
TO RECYCLING AND DISPOSING OF OILS IN OECD COUNTRIES;

(G) LIST OF KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INDUSTRY
GROUPS IN OECD COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPOSAL AND
RECYCLING OF OILS.

(H) THE FEASIBILITY OF TESTING, EITHER IN THE U.S.
AND/OR IN OECD COUNTRIES, VARIOUS GRADES AND TYPES OF
RECYCLED OILS AS A LUBRICANT.

4. IF THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT INTEREST WITHIN THE
GROUP IN REACTIVATING A PROGRAM IN THIS AREA, PERHAPS THE
GROUP MEMBERS OR OECD STAFF WOULD HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR
AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS BY WHICH THIS INFORMATION COULD BE
GATHERED FOR THE USE OF THE U.S. KISSINGER

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